

LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for collecting animals living on or in a water bottom, wherein a collecting device is moved over the bottom in a first direction, which collecting device is provided with means for moving the animals from or off the water bottom, said means including at least one tine that can penetrate into the bottom and with which said animals can be taken or forced from or off the bottom, while said at least one tine is provided with fluid outlet means through which, under pressure, a fluid is forced into the bottom, such that a top layer of the bottom is stirred up and animals living therein or thereon are dislodged, which animals are caught in the collecting device, and wherein detection means are provided on the collecting device in front of the at least one tine, when viewed in said first direction, with which the presence of animals in or on the bottom is detected, while operating means are also provided on the collecting device for moving the at least one tine, which are activated on the basis of signals of said detecting means, the arrangement being such that the at least one tine is only moved into the bottom when the detecting means in front of the respective tine detect the presence of animals in or on the bottom, and is moved from the bottom again when no more animals are detected in front of the respective tine, and wherein said at least one tine is extendable below an underside of said collecting device for moving said tine into the bottom, and is retractable above said underside of said collecting device for removing said tine from said bottom in the absence of a signal from said detecting means.

2. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of tines is provided and the collecting device is moved in said first direction over the bottom and the fluid is selectively forced into the bottom in approximately the same direction from an individual tine based on the detecting means detecting the presence of an animal in front of said individual tine, wherein each tine of said plurality of tines is independently activatable.

3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the fluid is introduced into the bottom less than 25 cm below the surface of the bottom.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein, viewed in said first direction, in front of the at least one tine, detecting means are provided with which the presence of animals in or on the bottom is detected, while operating means are provided for controlling electric means arranged near the tines, for generating at least one of current impulses, an electric field, and a magnetic field, which means are activated on the basis of signals of said detecting means, the arrangement being such that said electric means are only activated when the detecting means in front of the respective tine detect the presence of animals in or on the bottom and are moved from the bottom again when no more animals are detected in front of the respective tine.

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the animals are detected with the aid of sound.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) A device for collecting animals living in or on the water bottom, provided with:

supporting means for support on a water bottom;

detecting means supported on said supporting means for detecting animals in or on the water bottom; and

means for moving the animals from or off the water bottom, said means for moving the animals being supported on said supporting means and being drivable on the basis of a signal to be delivered by the detecting means,

wherein the means for moving the animals from or off the water bottom comprises at least one tine which, during use, is extendable below a plane defined by the undersides of the supporting means, at least into the bottom, and water supply means for, during use, introducing water under pressure into the bottom, at most at a gentle angle relative to said plane, at least to a bottom over which the device can be moved, said tine being further retractable above a plane defined by said undersides of said supporting means in the absence of a signal from said detecting means, and

wherein a row of tines is provided, and

wherein means are provided for selectively moving each individual tine with respect to said row of tines between a first position in which the respective individual tine extends, during use, at least partly into the bottom, and a second position in which the respective tine is retracted above the bottom, wherein each individual tine of said row of tines is independently movable based on a detection of an animal by said detecting means at said respective tine.

13. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 12 ~~10~~, wherein the or each tine is provided with a free end extending, at least in a position of use, approximately parallel to said plane, at least the top side of the water bottom, while the water supply means are arranged for introducing water approximately parallel to this free end.

14. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim ~~12~~ 9, wherein the means for moving the animals from off the water bottom comprise electric or mechanical means for generating at least one of a current surge, a magnetic field, an electric field and a vibration field.

15. (Original) A device according to claim 14, wherein a series of electric means is provided, as well as a series of detecting means, such that over a relatively large width animals can be detected, at different positions in front of the device and, depending thereon, different electric means in the series can be operated.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) A method ~~as defined in Claim 17~~, for collecting animals from the bottom of a body of water comprising the steps of:

moving a collecting device along the bottom surface of a body of water;

detecting the presence of animals in front of said collecting device;

applying a fluid under pressure below the bottom surface of the body of water upon detection of the presence of animals in front of said collecting device; and

collecting animals dislodged by said applied fluid under pressure,

wherein said collecting device includes an underside movable along the bottom surface of the body of water, and said step of applying a fluid under pressure includes the step of extending a tine provided on said collecting device below said collecting device underside into the bottom surface, said tine including a nozzle for applying said fluid under pressure.

19. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in Claim 18, further including the step of retracting said tine above said collecting device underside to remove said time from below the bottom surface upon detection of the absence of animals in front of said collection device.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) A device as defined in Claim 20, for collecting animals from the bottom of a body of water comprising:

a support frame having at least one runner movable along a bottom surface of a body of water;

an animal detector provided on said support frame for detecting the presence of animals in the vicinity of said support frame;

an animal mover provided on said support frame, said animal mover being activatable by said animal detector upon the detection of the presence of animals to move the detected animals from the bottom of the body of water; and

an animal collector for collecting the moved animals,

wherein said animal mover comprises at least one tine movable between a first position, wherein said tine is extended below an underside of said runner such that said tine is inserted below the bottom surface of the body of water, and a second position, wherein said tine is retracted above said underside of said runner such that said tine is removed from the bottom surface of the body of water, said tine being driven by said animal detector and including a fluid outlet for applying a fluid under pressure into the bottom surface of the body of water when said tine is in said first position.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in Claim ~~18~~ 17, wherein said step of applying a fluid under pressure comprises the step of selectively applying a fluid under pressure from one of a plurality of tines extending below the bottom surface of the body of water upon detection of the presence of an animal in front of said one tine, wherein each tine of said plurality of tines is independently activatable.

24. (Previously Presented) A device for collecting animals from the bottom of a body of water comprising:

a support frame having at least one runner movable along a bottom surface of a body of water;

an animal detector provided on said support frame for detecting the presence of animals in the vicinity of said support frame;

an animal mover provided on said support frame, said animal mover being activatable by said animal detector upon the detection of the presence of animals to move the detected animals from the bottom of the body of water; and

an animal collector for collecting the moved animals,

wherein said animal mover comprises at least one tine movable between a first position, wherein said tine is extended below a plane defined by an underside of said runner such that said tine is inserted below the bottom surface of the body of water, and a second position, wherein said tine is retracted above said plane defined by said underside of said runner such that said tine is removed from the bottom surface of the body of water, said tine being driven by said animal detector and including a fluid outlet for applying a fluid under pressure into the bottom surface of the body of water when said tine is in said first position, and

wherein said animal mover comprises a plurality of tines, each individual tine being selectively, independently movable with respect to the others based upon the detection by said animal detector of the presence or absence of an animal at said respective individual tine.